

2013 Annual Report



U.S. Representative Richard L. Hanna

Proudly Representing New York's 22nd Congressional District

hanna.house.gov

IN THE REPORT

In The Report and By-the-Numbers Snapshot	Page 1
Welcome Message	Page 2
About Rep. Richard Hanna	Page 3
Office Mission Statement	Page 4
About the 22 nd District of New York	Page 5
Committee Assignments and Caucus Memberships	Page 6
Transparency and Recognition	Page 8
Constituent Services	Page 9
Legislative Work	Page 10
Local Success Stories	Page 19
Events and District Outreach	Page 20
Rep. Hanna in the Press	Page 22

Snapshot of 2013 By-the-Numbers

- ◆ 174 public Vote Explanations posted on Facebook, Twitter and Hanna.House.Gov.
- ◆ 91 days of travel around the 22nd Congressional District.
- ◆ Traveled home every weekend when in Washington; 35 trips home from Washington to New York.
- ◆ Sponsored 9 bills and resolutions.
- ◆ Co-sponsored 216 bills and resolutions.
- ◆ Held 17 Open Door meetings and staff office hours.
- ◆ Supported 88 grant applications.
- ◆ Provided 122 U.S. Capitol tours for constituents.
- ◆ Responded to more than 48,000 constituent letters, emails, phone calls and faxes.
- ◆ Hosted 35 interns in Washington and Upstate offices.

WELCOME MESSAGE



December 2013

Dear Friend,

It is clear that in many ways Washington is broken as 2013 draws to a close. I am pleased to report that your office is not.

We are making good progress both in the halls of Congress and across upstate New York to support families, businesses, farms and veterans in the 22nd Congressional District. This report is part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and accessibility. It provides an update and sampling of our work on issues important to a broad cross section of individuals in our community.

I hope you will agree that we are moving in the right direction and offering real solutions to the most pressing challenges facing our nation. Though we may not always agree on the issues, you will always know where I stand. Whether you agree or disagree, however, I want to know your thoughts on how we can serve you better.

It is a privilege to represent the hardworking men and women of Central New York and the Southern Tier, so my team and I strive each and every day to make the most of this opportunity and live up to your rightfully high expectations.

From the Port of Oswego in Central New York to Remington Arms in the Mohawk Valley to Binghamton University in the Southern Tier, we are looking for ways to create opportunity and advance prosperity in the region. Our nation and our state are facing stiff headwinds, but I know that with positive, collaborative solutions we can overcome adversity and better our community.

You and I have had an opportunity to live, work and raise a family in upstate New York, but it is clear that for too many of our children that dream seems – and can in fact be – out of reach. I want our children to have every opportunity to live here in our scenic villages, towns and cities for generations to come. A great people solve their own problems in their own time; that is exactly what we intend to accomplish.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report and I look forward to your feedback. Feel free to email me through www.hanna.house.gov, call my offices or connect with me on Facebook or Twitter. Please accept my best wishes for a happy holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year. Please keep in touch – we work for you.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "R. Hanna".

RICHARD HANNA
U.S. Representative

ABOUT REP. RICHARD HANNA

Representative Richard Hanna was re-elected on November 6, 2012 to represent the newly formed 22nd District of New York in the United States House of Representatives. Rep. Hanna brings real life experiences to our nation's capital with a history of creating jobs, growing a business and understanding how both the federal and state governments affect decisions of business owners.

He uses his nearly three decades of experience as a business leader to help turn around both the national economy and that of upstate New York. Rep. Hanna is no stranger to facing tough challenges and finding solutions through hard work.

At the age of 20, Rep. Hanna became the primary supporter of his mother and four sisters after his father died suddenly. He put school on hold to work and pay off a substantial family debt. Over the next eight years, and without any outside assistance, Congressman Hanna and his sister Katrina worked together to support their family. He put himself through college and graduated in 1976.



After graduating with honors in Economics and Political Science from Reed College in Portland, Oregon, he started Hanna Construction and worked on small residential projects. Over the next 27 years Hanna Construction grew to employ more than 450 people – many from the construction trades – and successfully complete a myriad of multi-million dollar commercial and municipal projects in Upstate New York. Hanna is a 25-year member of the Operating Engineers Local 545.

Rep. Hanna is a successful businessman who has maintained a lifelong interest in public policy and economics. He is a member of the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce and a member of the National Rifle Association. He is a licensed pilot with high performance and sea plane certifications.

He has also donated his time, leadership and personal resources to numerous civic, charitable, religious and philanthropic causes to compassionately address needs in our society.

In cooperation with The Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc., Rep. Hanna in 2004 founded "Annie's Fund." The fund was created to help women make positive changes at critical points in their lives through one-time grants. Hundreds of grants have been awarded since the inception of Annie's Fund. The YWCA of the Mohawk Valley has also honored Rep. Hanna as a "Champion of Women" for nearly three decades.

Rep. Hanna also served for 10 years from 1994 to 2004 on the board of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc., including two years as the board chairman. Rep. Hanna in 2007 was the recipient of foundation's Rosamond Childs Award for Community Philanthropy. The award honors the memory of the foundation's first and largest benefactor and is presented to a donor who exemplifies her philanthropic spirit. Rep. Hanna was the first living person to receive the award.

Rep. Hanna and his wife, Kim, live in Barneveld and have two children.

OFFICE MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of U.S. Representative Richard Hanna is devoted to serving the best interests of all citizens of New York's 22nd



Congressional District. Through transparent decision making and increased accessibility, we are committed to the basic belief that this office works for you.

Our office strives to be highly responsive to constituent inquiries and needs, while focusing on delivering services efficiently and effectively.

We remain dedicated to assisting constituents and working hard on your behalf to promote fiscally responsible policies that help make upstate New York a place of opportunity and prosperity.



We welcome your feedback at all times.

ABOUT THE 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Every 10 years, the Constitution requires a census to be taken to reapportion congressional districts based on population shifts. The 22nd Congressional District of New York was formed in 2012 due to redistricting following the last census in 2010, under which the state of New York lost two congressional seats. Rep. Hanna is the first member of Congress to represent the current 22nd District.

The 22nd District stretches from the Pennsylvania border to Lake Ontario, covering large portions of the Mohawk Valley, Central New York and the Southern Tier. Roughly 714,000 individuals, including almost 50,000 veterans, call the 22nd District home. The 22nd District includes all of Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Oneida counties as well as parts of Broome, Herkimer, Oswego and Tioga counties.



Rep. Hanna maintains Constituent Service Centers in Binghamton and Utica.

The 22nd District boasts more than 700 companies and approximately 320,000 job holders. Major industries include agriculture, education, finance, manufacturing and construction. There are 17 colleges and universities in the 22nd District including Binghamton University, Colgate University, Hamilton College, SUNY Cortland and SUNY Institute of Technology. The district is largely rural but larger population centers include the cities of Binghamton, Utica, Rome, Cortland and Norwich.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND CAUCUS MEMBERSHIPS

Representative Hanna served on three key committees in 2013. Rep. Hanna's committee assignments reflect his background as a businessman and focus on his top priority: working to create an atmosphere that allows job creation to flourish in upstate New York.

- **Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:** The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction over all modes of transportation: aviation, maritime transportation, roads, bridges, mass transit and railroads. Rep. Hanna utilizes his position on the Committee to advocate for fiscally-responsible, long-term investment in transportation and infrastructure - to improve safety and create jobs in upstate New York. He is the only New York Republican on the Committee - making him New York's majority transportation and infrastructure advocate.
 - ✓ **Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials** (*Vice Chair*): In 2013, Rep. Hanna was named Vice Chair of this Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the economic and safety regulation of railroads. The Subcommittee oversees efforts to increase efficiency and accountability in Amtrak's operations. The transportation of hazardous materials and the issue of pipeline safety also fall under the scope of this Subcommittee.
 - ✓ **Subcommittee on Highways and Transit:** Highways and Transit is charged with the construction of roads and transit facilities and the development of national surface transportation policy. The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over many programs of the Department of Transportation. The foremost duty of the Subcommittee is the reauthorization of the federal highway, transit and highway safety programs. This legislation represents an investment in the nation's infrastructure that translates into safer travel, more efficient commerce and the creation of thousands of jobs.
 - ✓ **Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment:** This Subcommittee conducts oversight of environmental and water programs under the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency and Tennessee Valley Authority. It has jurisdiction over the Corps' water resources programs, federally-funded water infrastructure programs as well as the Superfund and Brownfields environmental programs. The Subcommittee is responsible for authorizing programs to address our environmental needs and drinking water and wastewater investments.
- **Committee on Small Business:** The House Small Business Committee was established to protect and assist small businesses. The Committee has jurisdiction over matters related to small business financial aid, regulatory flexibility and paperwork reduction. Additionally, the Committee has oversight and legislative authority over the Small Business Administration (SBA) and its programs. A successful small business owner for almost 30 years in Upstate, Rep. Hanna advocates on the Committee for New York small businesses. Hanna promotes policies that reduce burdens on small businesses and allow these economic engines to retain and create jobs.



- ✓ **Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce (Chairman):** In 2013, Rep. Hanna was named chairman of the Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce. The Subcommittee oversees the federal procurement system, including programs to enhance small business participation in providing goods and services to the government. The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over contracting programs and technical assistance provided to federal contractors and perspective contractors through the Small Business Administration. Contracting and Workforce also oversees federal policies that affect the small businesses workforce including the roles of the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board. The 22nd District is home to thousands of small businesses, many of which provide goods and services to the federal government – including several defense contractors in the Utica, Rome and Binghamton areas.



Rep. Hanna chaired six Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee hearings in 2013.

- ✓ **Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade:** The Subcommittee addresses policies that enhance rural economic growth, increase America's energy independence and ensure that our small businesses can compete in a global marketplace. The Subcommittee's jurisdiction includes oversight of agricultural policies, environmental regulations and energy issues. The subcommittee also oversees international trade policy and infringement of intellectual property rights by foreign competition.
- **Joint Economic Committee:** In 2013, Rep. Hanna was appointed to the exclusive Joint Economic Committee (JEC) by House Speaker John Boehner. The JEC is an economic advisory body of Congress. JEC members are selected directly by the top party leaders of the House and Senate. The JEC's primary tasks are to review economic conditions and to recommend improvements in economic policy.

Rep. Hanna utilizes his position on JEC to further his goals in Congress - growing the economy and reducing the national debt. Specifically, Rep. Hanna advocates on the committee for an American competitiveness agenda to ensure that we can create jobs here and thrive in the 21st century. Rep. Hanna further uses his JEC seat to examine pro-growth issues like tax reform, high-tech education, greater trade opportunities, energy security and controlling the national debt. He works with JEC members on both sides of the aisle to review the problems that ail our economy and propose solutions to make the United States more competitive and put New Yorkers back to work.

Rep. Hanna is the only majority party member from New York to serve on the Joint Economic Committee in the 113th Congress.

- **Caucus Memberships:** In addition to his standing committee assignments, Rep. Hanna is a member of several Congressional Caucuses which allow him to advocate for issues important to Upstate. In addition to serving on numerous caucuses, in 2013 Rep. Hanna co-chaired the Congressional Organic Caucus, the New York Defense Working Group, the STEM Education Caucus and the Congressional Cancer Caucus.

Rep. Hanna also participates in several other caucuses, including the House Manufacturing Caucus, Congressional Pilot's Caucus, Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, House Rural Education Caucus, Northern Border Caucus, Congressional Dairy Farmers Caucus and the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, among others.

TRANSPARENCY AND RECOGNITION

In 2013, Rep. Hanna continued to make transparency and accountability a hallmark of his service in Washington, and was recognized for his efforts.

He is one of only two Members of Congress to post public explanations describing not only how he votes on passage of bills –but also to explain why. Rep. Hanna believes strongly that his constituents deserve to know his thought process for votes he casts on their behalf. This allows his constituents to provide feedback directly to Rep. Hanna and hold him accountable.



This past year, Rep. Hanna posted 174 vote explanations on his website, Facebook and Twitter pages.



Rep. Hanna's 2013 voting record reflected how he always puts constituents before politics. According to the *Washington Post* Votes Database, his votes rank him as one of the top 10 most independent Republicans out of the 235-member House GOP Conference.

Congressional watchdogs recognized Rep. Hanna for his focus on advancing pro-growth economic policies and standing up for important upstate New York priorities over the past year.

- ✓ The U.S. Chamber of Commerce presented Rep. Hanna with the Spirit of Enterprise award for his support of job-creating legislation. He maintains a 96% lifetime rating with the Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ Rep. Hanna received the "George E. Brown, Jr. Leadership Award" for his for active leadership on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.
- ✓ The National Parks Conservation Association honored Rep. Hanna with its "Friend of the National Parks Award" for his work to protect and enhance America's national parks.
- ✓ Rep. Hanna maintained a perfect "A" rating with the National Rifle Association for his support for the Second Amendment, outdoor sports and Upstate firearms manufacturing jobs.
- ✓ The First Focus Campaign for Children selected Rep. Hanna as a 2013 "Champion for Children." He was one of just three House Republicans to receive the honor for his work to make children and families a national priority in Congress.



CONSTITUENT SERVICES

"The greatest privilege of serving the 22nd District is being able to help individuals, veterans and businesses each day on a case-by-case basis. I encourage anyone in need of assistance with a federal agency to call my office. We work for you." — Rep. Richard Hanna

Rep. Hanna responded to more than 48,500 constituent letters, emails and faxes in 2013. Rep. Hanna places a priority on answering constituents' questions and concerns about pending federal legislation and policies. The average turnaround time for responding to constituent correspondence in 2013 was 96 hours. The top issues constituents wrote about were the Second Amendment, budget, health care and national defense.

Below is a breakdown of correspondence with constituents this year by county.

- ✓ Oneida – 13,816
- ✓ Broome – 13,562
- ✓ Madison – 4,006
- ✓ Herkimer – 3,315
- ✓ Chenango – 3,224
- ✓ Cortland – 2,963
- ✓ Oswego – 2,560
- ✓ Tioga – 1,380



Rep. Hanna and his staff assisted hundreds of constituents interface with federal agencies and work through unique challenges on issues including Medicare, Social Security, IRS and Veterans Affairs benefits. In 2013, Rep. Hanna helped 960 constituents with a federal casework issue. Below is a breakdown of constituents served by county.

- ✓ Oneida – 409
- ✓ Herkimer – 111
- ✓ Broome – 110
- ✓ Madison – 48
- ✓ Cortland – 42
- ✓ Chenango – 32
- ✓ Oswego – 25
- ✓ Tioga – 10



Among the Highlights of Rep. Hanna's Constituent Services Successes in 2013:

- ✓ Veterans Affairs Assistance – Rep. Hanna helped **303** constituents with Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense issues. Success stories include helping a veteran with terminal cancer by expediting his claim and assisting another veteran in getting reimbursed for life-saving emergency services.
- ✓ Social Security – Rep. Hanna helped more than **123** constituents work through Social Security benefits difficulties. Success stories including helping one constituent receive retroactive benefits in the amount of \$33,000 and another receive benefits due to him from his late mother in the amount of \$11,000.
- ✓ Medicare – Rep. Hanna aided more than **28** constituents in resolving Medicare claims in 2013. Notable successes include assisting a rural ambulance company in obtaining \$30,000 in back claims and helping a constituent receive a favorable decision for immune system medication which was needed due to a life threatening illness.

LEGISLATIVE WORK

Although Washington experienced significant gridlock in 2013, Rep. Hanna and his office had a productive legislative year. Rep. Hanna sponsored nine bills and resolutions this past year.

- ✓ **H.R. 776, Security in Bonding Act:** This bill would help ensure subcontractors and suppliers who provide services to the federal government are paid for their work. The Security in Bonding Act would protect small businesses and taxpayers by strengthening the bonding process and removing opportunities for fraud and abuse. Specifically, it requires non-corporate sureties to pledge specific and secure assets as required from others providing collateral to the federal government, and requires those assets be held by a government entity to ensure payments can be made in the event they are needed. The bill also raises the guarantee on the Small Business Administration Surety Bond Guarantee program from 70 percent to 90 percent. This change would help more small businesses get bonding at no extra cost to the government, because the program charges fees to participate and has successfully functioned running a surplus. The bill has bipartisan cosponsors and is heading toward a markup in the Small Business Committee.
- ✓ **H.R. 1071, To specify the size of the precious-metal blanks that will be used in the production of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins:** This bill would make a technical correction the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act, requested by the U.S. Mint, to enable the Mint to meet the requirements of the authorizing legislation, accounting for the prescribed curvature of the gold and silver coins. The bill was signed into law by President Obama in 2013.
- ✓ **H.R. 1353, STEM Education Opportunity Act:** This bill would help address college affordability and encourage access to higher education in the economically competitive fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The STEM Education Opportunity Act would provide a federal tax deduction equal to a student's STEM higher education expenses, including tuition, room, and board. Specifically, the STEM Education Opportunity tax deduction may be claimed in one of two ways: as a same taxable year deduction claimed by the parent or benefactor in the year the qualified expense is occurred, or as a carry forward deduction, claimed against earned income when the student utilizes the STEM degree in the future. This legislation also allows for businesses and individuals to receive a tax credit equal to their donation of STEM materials to elementary and secondary schools, to encourage education and interest in STEM from a young age. The bill has bipartisan support and the strong backing of the STEM education community.
- ✓ **H.R. 2310, GUARD Remembrance Act:** This bill aims to provide recognition for the honorable service of our nation's guardsmen and reservists by authorizing a memorial headstone or marker to be purchased from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) for certain service members who are currently denied this eligibility. The Guard Units and Reservists Deserve Remembrance Act would grant this authority for patriotic guardsmen and reservists who have trained and stood ready to serve for at least 6 years but were not called to active duty at no fault of their own. This zero-cost measure does not create any new veteran benefits, and does not authorize any new burial benefits or authorities. This legislation would simply allow for the purchase of a VA marker to recognize the spirit of valor inherent in these men and women. The bill has 21 bipartisan cosponsors to date.
- ✓ **H.R. 2476, SERVE Act:** This bill would create a \$1,000 income tax credit for bona fide members of volunteer firefighting and emergency medical service organizations. This tax credit would be instrumental in assisting recruitment efforts for volunteer fire departments all across upstate New York and would represent a true and well-deserved "thank you" for those who choose to take on risks and put their lives on the line to keep our communities and families safe. The Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act of 2013 would help to bring more volunteers into the ranks of this vital service, which will provide a ready force to assist our communities in times of need. These volunteers incur a number of personal expenses through their work, and this bill's tax credit would allow these men and women who contribute their time and resources to our health and safety a bit of reimbursement for those expenses unselfishly endured year after year. The bill has bipartisan support and the strong backing of first responder advocacy organizations.



- ✓ **H.R. 2751, Commonsense Construction Contracting Act:** Currently, some federal agencies use a "reverse auction" process to award contracts for construction services. For this method, the government advertises its service needs, and bidders are allowed to offer multiple, consecutively lower bids on a rapid basis, until the lowest price wins. A May 23, 2013 hearing in Rep. Hanna's Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce showed that the reverse auction process for construction contracting resulted in imprudent bidding, a poor evaluation of businesses, and unfair competition for many small construction contractors. This legislation would ban the use of reverse auctions for construction services, so agencies would be required to use one of the other statutorily approved contracting processes, such as sealed bid procurement or a negotiated procurement. The bill prohibits the use of reverse auctions when a construction services contract is suitable for award to a small business, or when the procurement is made using a small business program. The Commonsense Construction Contracting Act directs the government to use better methods for choosing construction and design services – so that taxpayers get the best value possible and small businesses, as well as the jobs they support, are protected from unscrupulous bidding behavior. The bill has bipartisan cosponsors and is heading toward a markup in the Small Business Committee.

 - ✓ **H.R. 3413, TRUE Safety Act:** On July 1, 2013, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) enacted a new Hours of Service (HOS) rule, which is taking a toll on truck drivers and on the trucking industry – the lifeblood of the American economy. According to a study completed by the American Transportation Research Institute, the new rule may result in an annual cost of \$376 million to the trucking industry alone. Other businesses likely to be adversely impacted include construction firms, delivery services and fresh food distributors. Concerns have been raised that the new rules cause more congestion during peak morning travel and could push drivers to be more aggressive during the hours they do spend on the road. This rule could cost businesses and consumers billions of dollars and it is plausible that it will actually decrease safety on the roads. The TRUE Safety Act would allow truckers to abide by the 34-hour restart rules that were in place before July 1, 2013. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) would be required to conduct an independent assessment of the methodology FMCSA used to come up with the new 34-hour restart rule. The new 34-hour restart rule could not be re-implemented until six months after GAO submits its assessment to Congress. The bill has 53 bipartisan cosponsors and is heading toward a markup in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
-
- ✓ **H.Res.134, Condemning North Korea for its continuing acts of aggression, its expressed intent to break the Korean War Armistice Agreement, and for its repeated violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions:** This resolution condemns the continued acts of aggression and threats invoked by North Korea and their continued, deliberate violations of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions. It calls on North Korea to renounce any further acts of aggression and abide by the statutes of the 1953 Korean War Armistice, and reaffirms the support of the United States to its strategic allies and the continued promotion of peace and international stability. It also seeks to apply the full force of currently imposed sanctions against North Korea as violators of human rights and provocateurs of aggression. The actions of the North Korean regime continue to escalate to a new level of unwarranted hostilities, as they have threatened the United States with pre-emptive nuclear attacks; announced their intention to completely scrap the Korean War Armistice; cut off means of outside communications while declaring that it is operating in a "state of war" against South Korea; and made preparations for conducting offensive military action targeted against U.S. military bases throughout the Pacific and beyond. This resolution aims to curb this aggression and show the resolve of the United States against such escalated threats. The resolution has 30 bipartisan cosponsors.

 - ✓ **H.Res. 190, Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation:** This resolution expresses Congressional disapproval of the use of IEDs and calls upon the American and foreign governments to take actions to stop the proliferation of IEDs. The resolution has 48 bipartisan cosponsors and similar language was included in the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act for FY2014.

In addition to sponsoring his own legislation, Rep. Hanna continued to advocate and play a leadership role on many issues important to Upstate in 2013. Here are some highlights of his work.

- ✓ **Supporting Strong Agriculture Policy for New York Farmers and Consumers.** In 2013, Rep. Hanna voted to approve a new Farm Bill to provide certainty to farmers, save taxpayer dollars and repeal outdated government programs while reforming, streamlining and consolidating others. The bill included several regulatory relief measures to help mitigate some of the most onerous regulatory pressures plaguing our New York farmers and rural communities. It would offer dairy producers new voluntary margin coverage along with the opportunity to buy supplemental coverage, if they choose. The bill would expand opportunities for seniors and low-income families to access fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets and it would continue the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which brings nutritious foods to low-income students at schools. These policy reforms are good for both Upstate producers and New York consumers who wish to support local farmers. Rep. Hanna looks forward to seeing a final Farm Bill signed into law in 2014.



Rep. Hanna also was the **lead Republican co-sponsor on a bill to reduce tax burdens on small farms**. H.R. 2899, the Growing Small Farms Act, would increase an outdated quarterly federal unemployment tax exemption for small farms from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and index it to inflation in the future, allowing more small farmers in upstate New York to qualify for this tax exemption.



Also in 2013, **Rep. Hanna scored a major victory for upstate New York when Chobani successfully bid to provide Greek yogurt in school lunches** through a new pilot program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This was a win-win as it will create jobs in upstate New York and provide our nation's students with a nutritious and healthy lunch option.

In another win for New York farmers, **Rep. Hanna successfully petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the ethanol mandate for 2014**. Rep. Hanna argued the mandate is a government-imposed thorn in the side of Upstate farmers, drivers, snowmobilers and consumers which drives up fuel and food costs and **causes** engine damage. He successfully made the case that the EPA should grant relief from this unrealistic and harmful mandate in 2014 so Upstate farmers can focus on growing their businesses and providing for their families, instead of subsidizing large

agribusinesses in other parts of the country.

- ✓ **Championing Small Businesses in upstate New York.** Rep. Hanna successfully included an amendment called the "Make Every Small Business Count Act" in the final National Defense Authorization Act in 2013. When small businesses bid for and perform federal contracts they provide value to taxpayers and create jobs. The federal government has a goal of awarding 23 percent of its prime contract dollars and 36 percent of subcontracted dollars to small companies. When attempting to meet the government's subcontracting goal, dollars awarded by a large prime contractor to any small business subcontractor at the first tier count toward the goal; however, subcontracts at the second and third tier are not counted. This reduces opportunities for small businesses to get involved at lower tiers, even though these businesses create jobs, increase competition and promote innovation just like first tier subcontractors. The Make Every Small Business Count Act would enhance opportunities for small businesses by adding an incentive for prime federal contractors to consider small firms for more subcontracts at lower tiers.



- ✓ **Working for Upstate Firefighters and First Responders.** As a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, Rep. Hanna is proud to support policies to give firefighters the necessary resources to perform their jobs safely and effectively. In 2013, he **publicly called for, and subsequently voted for full funding for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (FIRE) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs for Fiscal Year 2014.** The FIRE program provides federal funds for fire department training and equipment. Since 2001, the FIRE program has delivered more than \$6 billion for protective gear, breathing apparatuses, fire engines, and advanced training programs. Rep. Hanna has supported several local fire departments' successful applications to receive these grants and is committed to ensuring the funding remains available to aid more departments in upstate New York. The SAFER program provides funding for both career and volunteer fire departments to hire new firefighters and recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. Many fire stations—two-thirds of all stations in America and many in Central New York and the Southern Tier—are currently short of staff. When adequately funded, this grant program helps departments increase staffing levels so that firefighter and community safety is improved.



- ✓ **Honoring New York Veterans.** In 2013, Rep. Hanna voted **against proposed TRICARE deductible increases and new fees** through his vote for the National Defense Authorization Act for 2014. **During the October 2013 government shutdown – which Rep. Hanna opposed and worked to end – he made the continued care of our nation's veterans a priority.** Rep. Hanna cosponsored the Save Our Veterans Act and voted in support of the Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act. These bills ensure that veteran payments, benefits, and VA programs remain funded during a government shutdown. **Rep. Hanna also worked diligently to get our veterans back to work.** He supported implementation of the Vow to Hire Heroes Act. This law has been providing work opportunity tax credits to employers who hire veterans and creating new career training programs.

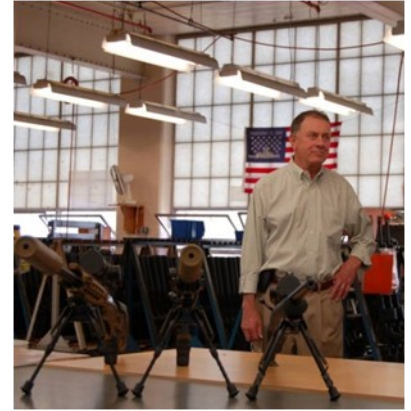


To help honor all upstate veterans, **Rep. Hanna also invited Retired Army Col. Benjamin Margolius of Vestal to be his guest at the 2013 State of the Union.**

- ✓ **Protecting Upstate's Defense Assets.** Working as co-chair of the New York Defense Working Group, **Rep. Hanna made 2013 a successful year for Rome Lab, DFAS, EADS and the many defense contractors in Central New York and the Southern Tier.** The final National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 determined there will be no military base realignments or closures in 2014. It also increased funding for the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome by \$33 million (24 percent).

Additionally, the **Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 replaced many harmful defense cuts** for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, providing much needed relief and planning clarity to defense contractors of all sizes, including Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems in the 22nd District.

In March 2013, Rep. Hanna announced that **Remington Arms was awarded a nearly \$80 million contract** to produce more than 5,000 sniper rifles for the U.S. military. The work is being done in Ilion. In December, **Rep. Hanna announced a new \$47 million contract for the company** to produce more than 50,000 R4 carbine rifles for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Work on the contract has begun and will be completed in 2014. The award of this competitive contract continues to prove Remington's excellence in the industry worldwide and will support more than 1,300 good jobs in the Mohawk Valley.



- ✓ **Supporting Sportsmen and Hunters.** As a member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, in 2013 Rep. Hanna supported legal gun ownership rights as an Upstate tradition and stood up for responsible, respectful, and lawful sportsmen and their pastimes. He is a **cosponsor of the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act**, a bill to foster traditional hobbies and provide opportunities for our children and grandchildren to enjoy the excitement of the great outdoors. Rep. Hanna also **co-sponsored the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act.** This bill preserves the rights of American sportsmen to hunt and fish on public lands and provides protection against government regulations that threaten to block or limit access to hunting, recreational shooting activities and fishing.

- ✓ **Advancing Women's Rights and Fighting Domestic Violence.** In 2013, Rep. Hanna further cemented his reputation as a Republican leader on women's rights and anti-violence issues. He was a **leading Republican advocate for the renewal and reauthorization of a bipartisan, inclusive Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).** Rep. Hanna worked with Republicans and Democrats to move past politics and send a bipartisan bill to President Obama that gave law enforcement and service providers - and most importantly, victims - all the tools and resources they need to ensure justice and recover from abuse.



Rep. Hanna also wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry urging him to continue the goal of reducing gender-based violence (GBV), which affects women and girls around the world. He became an original cosponsor of the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) which would, in consultation with the U.S. Department of State and USAID, make ending violence against women and girls around the world a priority of American foreign policy.

He was also an **early Republican backer in 2013 of the Military Justice Improvement Act**, which would reform how the military justice system works by removing the chain of command from decisions regarding the prosecution of sexual assault cases and transferring that authority to experienced military prosecutors. Rep. Hanna argues that the military justice system is broken, and that this bill offers one step toward creating a safe environment for all our service members.



Rep. Hanna continued supporting federal research efforts to combat breast cancer. He joined a bipartisan effort in Congress urging that the Department of Defense's peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program be fully funded in Fiscal Year 2014. Strong investment in breast cancer research can save lives and improve the quality of life for our mothers, sisters, daughters and friends in upstate New York.

Rep. Hanna also **co-sponsored legislation to reauthorize the National Women's Rights History Project**, an effort to establish an auto route—the Votes for Women Trail—inking sites across

upstate New York significant to the struggle for women's suffrage and civil rights.

- ✓ **Standing by Seniors in upstate New York.** This past year Rep. Hanna worked hard to make sure that the federal government kept its important promises made to senior citizens. That included **supporting the Low Income Heating Assistance Program**, which helps low-income senior households pay their home energy bills. Rep. Hanna believes Upstate seniors facing tough times deserve this assistance, especially during our cold winters in New York.

Rep. Hanna also **supported efforts to preserve and strengthen Medicare and Social Security and pushed back against programs that could jeopardize seniors' access to care** such as the

Independent Payment Advisory Board set up by the health care law. This board of bureaucrats was tasked by the health law with determining which medical treatments covered by Medicare are deemed to be too wasteful or expensive. Rep. Hanna supports eliminating this board because he believes seniors should be in charge of their own health decisions, not unaccountable bureaucrats.



An estimated 330,000 New

Yorkers have Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, so **Rep. Hanna became a co-sponsor of the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act.** This bill seeks to improve detection, diagnosis, and care planning for Medicare recipients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Rep. Hanna believes we must do more to learn about Alzheimer's so that we can better understand, treat, and ultimately cure and prevent this debilitating disease.

- ✓ **Strengthening New York's Transportation and Infrastructure.** In 2013, Rep. Hanna continued playing a leadership role on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In 2013, Congress overwhelmingly passed the **Water Resources Reform and Development Act**, of which Rep. Hanna was a key co-sponsor and supporter. Rep. Hanna successfully advocated for provisions that would expand the use of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) dollars to 80 percent by 2020. Further, Rep. Hanna worked to include provisions to allow all Great Lakes Ports, such as the Port of Oswego, to compete for Harbor Maintenance Funding as a single unit. In October 2013, noting his hard work on the WRRDA bill, **House Speaker John Boehner appointed Rep. Hanna to serve as a conferee** to the House - Senate WRRDA Conference Committee. Rep. Hanna looks forward to passing a reform-focused and fiscally responsible WRRDA bill in early 2014.



On July 1, 2013, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) enacted new Hours of Service regulations which strictly limit the use of 34-hour restart provisions and mandate inflexible rest periods, greatly decrease driver flexibility, and raise costs for the already over-burdened trucking industry—at a potential burden of up to \$376 million annually to the trucking industry alone.



In August, leading 50 colleagues, **Rep. Hanna authored a letter to the Secretary of Transportation expressing concerns with the new rules** and requesting the date for when a field study would be completed. After receiving a non-committal response from the Department, **Rep. Hanna worked with colleagues and stakeholders in the trucking industry to sponsor the TRUE Safety Act**, which would delay the burdensome rules until after the FMCSA completes its field study.

On November 21, 2013, **Rep. Hanna chaired a hearing in his Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce** where members of the trucking and logistics industry, as well as FMCSA Administrator Anne Ferro discussed the rule and the TRUE Safety Act. Currently, the bill has 54 bipartisan cosponsors and Rep. Hanna looks forward to passing this legislation in 2014.

The economy of upstate New York relies on an efficient and on-time freight transportation network connecting all modes of transportation. In the spring of 2013, **Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster appointed Rep. Hanna to serve as member of the Special Panel on 21st Century Freight Transportation**, tasked with the goal of providing recommendations to the full committee and Congress on how to make our nation's freight network run more efficiently to facilitate global commerce. During his time on the panel, Rep. Hanna and his colleagues visited distribution centers, port authorities, and met with stakeholders from all sectors of the transportation and logistics industry. **In October 2013, the panel released its report, "Improving the Nation's Freight Transportation System,"** which outlines policy goals to establish a national freight network and find dedicated and sustainable sources of revenue to fund projects of national and regional significance in all modes of transportation. Rep. Hanna looks forward to continuing to work on enhancing America's freight transportation network.

- ✓ **Improving Education in upstate New York and America.** Rep. Hanna was the **lead Republican co-sponsor of the Strong Start for America's Act**, a **bipartisan initiative to increase access to high-quality early learning programs** and provide young children with the necessary tools to succeed in school and in life. Decades of research have found that quality preschool leads to a wide range of short- and long-term benefits, including better educational outcomes, higher job earnings, lower obesity rates, and a reduction in spending on entitlements, welfare and incarceration. The bill would support state and local efforts to increase opportunities for low-income 4-year-olds



by providing quality preschool through a 10-year federal-state partnership. A focus on early education can begin to break the cycle of poverty, producing more taxpayers and a more competitive America through a better-educated, growing middle class.



Rep. Hanna was also a **co-sponsor of the Teacher Tax Deduction Enhancement Act** of 2013. In order to produce more educated students, quality teacher retention is necessary. The Teacher Tax Deduction Enhancement Act would extend the tax deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school educators to \$500 until 2020, and allow the deduction for educators in preschool programs as well. Many teachers spend money out of their own pocket to pay for classroom items and teaching tools that school districts cannot afford, and

this measure will support and encourage those teachers that go above and beyond for their students.

Rep. Hanna is a **leading co-sponsor of the TRANSFER Act of 2013**, which would offer grant awards to innovative technology transfer programs at institutions of higher learning, research institutes, and national laboratories. The TRANSFER Act would help enable local universities, such as Binghamton University and SUNY IT, to competitively access more resources to help bring its innovation from the lab to the entrepreneur. Moving inventions and products from the classroom into the marketplace not only benefits researchers and students, but small businesses and job seekers across upstate New York and the Southern Tier.



Education is the key to economic success, and New York students deserve the best education possible to develop skills that allow them to engage in and create well-paying jobs in upstate New York. The "STEM" fields of science, technology, engineering and math provide a clear path to rebuilding the American middle class. Rep. Hanna is a **strong advocate for STEM education**, and as co-chair of the STEM Education Caucus, has **sponsored a number of legislative efforts to increase exposure to these subjects at a young age**, as well as higher education in these high-demand fields.



Rep. Hanna understands the need for access to affordable higher education, and beyond **introducing the STEM Education Opportunity Act** to provide tax relief for students majoring in STEM, he **voted for the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act** to amend and improve the student loan interest rate system to better flow with the market and provide protections in times of interest rate uncertainty. Signed into law on August 9, 2013, this measure provides certainty and

stability for the greatest investment one can make – their education.

- ✓ **Increasing Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care:** New York's hard-working families and small businesses deserve patient-centered and market-based health care reforms that actually reduce insurance premiums and increase access to care. In 2013, **Rep. Hanna worked to enact meaningful and commonsense health care reforms that protect consumer choice, improve patient access to care, reduce the physician shortage, and promote innovation and market-driven reforms.**

Rep. Hanna **cosponsored the Protect Medical Innovation Act**, which would repeal the 2.3 percent medical device tax which is causing layoffs, lower wages, and reducing research, **as well as the Save American Workers Act**, which would return the definition of a full-time employee to 40 hours a week to keep employers from cutting hours to avoid the Obamacare employer mandate penalty.

Rep. Hanna **remained committed to enacting meaningful medical malpractice reform** to reduce frivolous lawsuits – a major **cost** to health care providers and patients, **and legislation to allow the purchase of health insurance across state lines** to allow for increased competition among health insurers and lower premiums for those in New York and elsewhere.

Employers and employees should be encouraged to make good health decisions, such as participating in wellness programs and saving for health expenses. Employees who make positive personal health choices should be applauded, not penalized by the government. Unfortunately, Obamacare includes provisions that limit the amount



employees can contribute to their Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) and do not allow funds to be rolled-over to the next year. In 2013, **Rep. Hanna argued that pre-tax FSAs and HSAs should be expanded**, as these accounts can help pay for dental care, prescription medication co-payments, eye care and other health services that are usually not covered by health insurance.

As America's healthcare system faces rising demands, a robust and sustainable healthcare workforce is essential. Rep. Hanna is a **strong supporter of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs**, which educate

thousands of **nurses** who provide high-quality, cost-effective care in underserved communities across the United States. Rep. Hanna is also a **co-sponsor of the National Nurse Act, a bipartisan bill to promote the nursing profession** by establishing a National Nurse for Public Health within the Office of the Surgeon General.

America's nurses are expert clinicians who provide safe, reliable care in our nation's hospitals and communities, and this legislation would recognize the significant contributions of nurses to our nation's healthcare system.

Rep. Hanna also understands the importance of research in the health care field and is an **original co-sponsor of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act**, which was **passed by the House on December 12, 2013**. The measure eliminates federal funding for presidential campaigns and party conventions and reallocates it to expand pediatric research. Such funding would support medical breakthroughs that could help children diagnosed with autism, juvenile Type 1 diabetes, Down Syndrome, childhood cancers and other pediatric disorders.

Rep. Hanna in 2013 also became the Republican co-chair of the Congressional Cancer Caucus and sponsors numerous bills to expand the fight against devastating illnesses without a cure.



LOCAL SUCCESS STORIES

In 2013, Rep. Hanna supported 88 competitive grant and loan applications by local governments and organizations. Many of these applications were successful and below are just a few highlights.

- ✓ Griffiss International Airport in **Oneida County** was selected by the Federal Aviation Administration as one of six sites nationwide to test unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).
- ✓ The Town of Lenox in **Madison County** received a \$3.6 million USDA Rural Development loan and \$500,000 grant for a water project.
- ✓ The Port of Oswego Authority in **Oswego County** received a \$192,000 federal grant for rail upgrades.
- ✓ Mohawk Valley Community College in **Oneida County** received a nearly \$1 million Department of Labor grant for its YouthBuild workforce and community development program.
- ✓ The City of Norwich in **Chenango County** received state and federal grants to assist with an affordable housing project.
- ✓ The Village of Endicott in **Broome County** received a \$137,000 grant to make runway repairs at the Tri-Cities Airport.



- ✓ The Port of Oswego in **Oswego County** received a \$1.5 million federal grant for a new rail link.
- ✓ **Chenango County** received a \$4.7 million federal Disaster Relief Opportunity grant to repair a freight rail system damaged by 2006 and 2011 storms.
- ✓ The **Cortland County** Airport received \$650,000 in grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation to make upgrades.
- ✓ **Chenango County** received a \$517,000 grant to make upgrades at the Lt. Warren Eaton Airport in Norwich.
- ✓ The Village of Owego in **Tioga County** received a \$1,684,202 federal/state grant to elevate 27 flood prone structures.
- ✓ Binghamton University in **Broome County** received a \$2 million grant from the Economic Development Administration for the Southern Tier High Technology Incubator project.
- ✓ The Cortland and Marathon fire departments in **Cortland County** received \$149,791 from New York State for a swift water rescue team boat and equipment.
- ✓ The City of Norwich in **Chenango County** received a \$125,000 federal grant for school safety resources.
- ✓ The Utica Auditorium in **Oneida County** received \$2 million in state funding for critical upgrades at the facility.
- ✓ The Greater Binghamton Airport in **Broome County** received a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to rehabilitate the West Apron at the facility.



EVENTS AND DISTRICT OUTREACH

In 2013, Rep. Hanna and his staff were accessible to constituents throughout the 22nd District. Below is a sampling of Rep. Hanna's outreach in upstate New York this past year.

- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna and his staff met face-to-face with constituents to hear their concerns and find solutions to their problems.*** Rep. Hanna and his staff held 17 public meetings with constituents, including Open Doors with Rep. Hanna, Staff Open Doors, Veterans Office Hours and other Open House events throughout the district.

- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna continued outreach to Upstate first responders.*** Rep. Hanna visited and met with **eight** local fire departments, police departments and other first responders throughout the 22nd District.



- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna hosted a Military Service Academy Day for students in the 22nd Congressional District.*** This event enabled Upstate high school students and their parents to meet with representatives of the five U.S. military service academies and obtain information regarding the academy nomination process.

- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna continued to reach out directly to businesses in Central New York and the Southern Tier.*** He visited **21** businesses in the 22nd District and met with many representatives of Upstate businesses in his Washington, D.C. office. Rep. Hanna held a defense contractor roundtable to discuss industry opportunities in the 22nd District and throughout New York State.

- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna hosted a Jobs Fair with 34 participating businesses and organizations to link employers with potential employees.*** His office also participated in the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, and Rep. Hanna chaired a Small Business Subcommittee hearing at Binghamton University to discuss opportunities for collaboration between businesses in the district and institutions of higher learning.



- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna kept up his advocacy for educational institutions in the 22nd District and maintained close working relationships with college presidents in the region.*** He hosted a roundtable with local teachers and met individually with educators and school administrators throughout upstate New York. Rep. Hanna visited **six** elementary and secondary schools in the district to meet with students in their classrooms. His office also created a unique Skype program to have discussions with more students throughout the 22nd District while Rep. Hanna is working in Washington.

- ✓ ***During and after the devastating floods in the summer of 2013, Rep. Hanna and his office were on the scene to provide assistance.*** Rep. Hanna toured areas with local officials in **Herkimer, Oneida and Madison counties** affected by flooding. He assisted emergency responders in providing food and personal care items to individuals whose property was damaged. Rep. Hanna also ensured that all of his offices and staff were available to relay important safety and recovery information to constituents and municipalities. Finally, he led the full New York House delegation in sending a letter to President Obama requesting FEMA assistance for Upstate communities affected by flooding.



- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna and his staff were constantly in contact with local stakeholders in upstate New York.*** He sent nearly **60** updates via mail and email to provide local officials and community leaders with important information regarding federal grant and loan opportunities for fire departments, farms and libraries. He also provided updates on legislative issues related to small business, defense, education and health care, and distributed information on the National Flood Insurance Program and Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands regulations.



- ✓ ***Rep. Hanna and his staff continued serving Upstate veterans as a top priority in 2013.*** This past year his office was able to provide **43** military medals to deserving veterans in the 22nd District. This included: **18 Army** medals, **11 Navy** medals, **7 Marine Corps** medals, **five Air Force/Army Air Corps** medals and **two Purple Hearts**. The Purple Heart recipients in the 22nd District were the family of **Sgt. Thomas Cook of Hamilton in Madison County** who served during Vietnam and the family of **Nicholas Maiola of Herkimer** who served during World War II.



- ✓ In 2013, Rep. Hanna also **designated New York's 22nd Congressional District as our nation's first-ever "Purple Heart Congressional District"** in ceremonies that took place in **New Hartford and Binghamton**. This designation serves as a symbol of our enduring thanks for the sacrifices of veterans. Rep. Hanna has also worked closely with his Veterans Advisory Committee to ensure that there is an open line of communication between our local veterans and his office that allows concerns to be voiced, heard and acted on.



- Rep. Hanna was honored to participate in 12 events connected to this year's Veterans Day.

REP. HANNA IN THE PRESS

Rep. Hanna started off January 2013 defending the nation's oldest continually operating gunmaker, **Remington Arms** in Ilion. As New York State enacted the toughest gun laws in the nation, a South Carolina congressman urged Remington Arms to relocate its Ilion plant to South Carolina in response. Rep. Hanna stood by the talented workforce in Ilion. Here's part of what **USA TODAY** reported:

The Republican congressman who represents Ilion says he'll fight to keep the Remington plant where it is. The plant employs more than 1,000 people.



"Generations of expertise is in the DNA of all those who work for Remington and live in Upstate New York," Rep. Richard Hanna said Tuesday. "The Ilion plant remains highly competitive, and its workers and the community are committed to the success of Remington. I look forward to working with New York state leaders to see that Remington stays here for generations to come and thrives right where it began almost 200 years ago."

He worked hard the following month to pass an anti-domestic violence bill in the House called the **Violence Against Women Act**, commonly called VAWA. Some Members of Congress objected to new provisions in the bill that protected Native Americans, undocumented immigrants and members of the LGBT community. In the end, a total of 87 Republicans joined with Democrats to get the legislation approved. Rep. Hanna gave a compassionate speech on the **House floor**:

"If a daughter, sister or perfect stranger was raped, battered or needed help, no one would ask or care what her ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation was before we came to her aid," Rep. Hanna said.

Adding, "No community, and no person, should be neglected when it comes to domestic violence. As the father of a young daughter, Grace Catherine, I don't know or care what her orientation is and neither should Congress. I simply know that she should be equally protected under its laws."

The Post-Standard Editorial Board in Syracuse lauded Rep. Hanna's pragmatic stances in a March editorial titled, **"U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna charts a middle course in Congress of extremes."**

Citing both "going to bat" for Remington Arms and passing the Violence Against Women Act, among other issues, the Editorial Board wrote:

*Rep. **Richard Hanna** kept his word. Hanna, R-Barneveld, said if voters **gave him a second term**, he would continue to be a voice of moderation in the decidedly immoderate House of Representatives.*

Since his swearing-in Jan. 3, Hanna has been that voice.



In April, Rep. Hanna slammed the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** over its decision not to grant a wetlands permit to a site in Oneida County being marketed for a chip fabrication plant. Rep. Hanna confronted two top Army Corps officials.

"This is a severe crime against this community," Rep. Hanna said during a hearing of the Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Later he added, "What we believe is that the most draconian and harsh approach was taken in this process. It has been appealed...tens of millions of dollars from an otherwise very economically depressed community has gone into this and we still have no resolution."

The **Utica Observer-Dispatch** wrote about Rep. Hanna's collaboration with two Virginia congressmen to challenge the delays and blocked permits by the Army Corps in their respective communities. They teamed up to find a way to get around rules that were stifling development in both New York and Virginia.

"The Army Corps has taken a harsh approach not only in Marcy, but we've witnessed the same now in Virginia," Rep. Hanna said. "There is a balance where we can encourage economic development and do so in a way that takes appropriate measures to protect our natural resources."

The **Binghamton Press & Sun** wrote in August "Hanna hears views on business climate" after Rep. Hanna chaired a Small Business Committee hearing at **Binghamton University** about the relationship between university research and small businesses.



SUSANETTE PHOTO
Congressman Richard Hanna, R-Barneveld, visits a preschool Wednesday morning in Washington, D.C. Hanna is one of several lawmakers pushing the Strong Start for America's Children Act, which would make early childhood programs such as preschool available to low-income families.

Giving kids an early boost

Hanna sponsor of bill to raise preschool funding

BY KESHIA CLUKEY
kclukey@uticaod.com

In the spring, Dolgevite Central School District officials learned they would lose about \$100,000 through federal cuts and would have to eliminate their Head Start program.

But the district rearranged its budget, looked for savings anywhere it could and managed to save the school-readiness program. It now serves 33 children but there's still a waiting list.

"We felt it was critical to keep the program going," said Superintendent Christine Reynolds.

"We'd love to be able to reach more." Help could be on the way. Introduced in Congress on Wednesday, the Strong Start for America's Children Act would give children and families nationwide better access to affordable high-quality early learning programs such as Head Start and preschool.

The bill, introduced by U.S. Reps. Richard Hanna, R-Barneveld, and George Miller, D-Calif., as well as other lawmakers, is a 10-year proposal that would fund preschool for 4-year-olds from families earning twice the Federal Poverty Level or less — an income of about \$47,000 for a family of four.

The legislation also would encourage states to spend their own funds to support preschool for families with incomes above that level.

"By focusing on early education, we

PLEASE SEE GIVING, 4A

ONLINE

Read more about the bill and vote whether it is a good idea at uticaod.com.

Later in 2013, Rep. Hanna became the lead Republican to establish an increased focus on the importance of early childhood education. Together with other Members of Congress, he introduced the **Strong Start for America's Children Act**.

The **Utica Observer-Dispatch** praised the new legislation, writing this on its Opinion Page:

It's no secret that education can be a ticket out of poverty.... it was on that very same premise that Utica's Reading Tutor Program was founded — to break the generational cycle of poverty by providing sound educational footing.

That is the mission of the Strong Start for America's Children Act, introduced last week in Congress. Rep. Richard Hanna, R-Barneveld, which would give children and families nationwide better access to affordable high-quality early learning programs such as Head Start and preschool. The concept is a no-brainer. Kids who start life in poverty — statistics show one in four in this country do — are likely to end up there as adults.

The fall was a difficult time in Washington in the wake of a 16-day government shutdown that ended with the nation on the brink of default. Rep. Hanna spoke with the **Syracuse Post-Standard** about what he considered a government headed down the wrong path and elected leaders not doing the job they were sent to Washington to do — govern.

Rep. Hanna ended up donating his pay to charity for the 16-day shutdown. Later adding, that he hopes everyone in Congress learned a lesson from the shutdown experience, the first in nearly two decades.

"One of the wonderful things about the human mind is that there is such a thing as a teachable moment,"

Hanna said. "At the core of both parties are people who came here for the right reasons. They want to quit borrowing from the present and secure for the future all of the things that this country stands for."

In December, the **Syracuse Post-Standard** reported that Rep. Hanna joined 168 Republicans and 163 Democrats to approve the Bipartisan Budget Act which set compromise spending levels for 2014 and reinstated stability into the federal budgeting process.

After the vote, Rep. Hanna concluded, "Congress should seize the opportunity presented to it by this legislation to do what we were sent here to do — govern and work through our differences in a responsible manner worthy of our constituents."



Binghamton, NY
49 Court Street, Suite 230
Binghamton, NY 13901

p: (607) 723-0212
f: (607) 723-0215

Utica, NY
258 Genesee Street, 1st Floor
Utica, NY 13502

p: (315) 724-9740
f: (315) 724-9746

Washington, D.C.
319 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

(p): 202-225-3665
(f): 202-225-1891



@reprichardhanna



hanna.house.gov



f.com/reprichardhanna